

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-10, 13-15, 22, 23, 26, 28, 32-34, 38-40 and 47-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Branson (US 5,740,801) ["Branson"]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an image display method that comprises "performing interimage processing on two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images taken of the same subject, which become objects of comparison and reading." The Examiner contends that Branson discloses this feature. Specifically, the Examiner contends that col. 12, line 16, col. 15, lines 38-43, col. 6, lines 3-8, col. 11, lines 51-54 and col. 14, lines 29-30, disclose the claimed interimage processing. The Examiner does not provide any analysis.

Applicant submits that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Branson that interimage processing is performed on "two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images taken of the same subject" as set forth in claim 1.

In col. 12, line 16, Branson merely discloses that video subsystem 34j is capable of "Inter-image operations and manipulations." There is no disclosure that the Interimage operations is done on the claimed original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images.

In col. 15, lines 19-43, Branson discloses that two video subsystems 34j, 34k are available for adding two images for "picture-in-picture" output for a display. The sizing, location and priorities of the two images are selected, switched and defined based on preferences

set forth in database 20. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the two images are the claimed original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images as set forth in claim 1. There is also no disclosure or suggestion that the two images are of the same subject as set forth in claim 1.

With respect to the other cited sections, col. 6, lines 3-8, merely discloses what preferences are stored in database 20. Col. 11, lines 51-54, discloses the capabilities of video subsystem 34j, and col. 14, lines 29-30 only relates to comparisons of areas within one image.

Accordingly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in any of these sections or in any other section of Branson of “interimage processing on two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images taken of the same subject” as set forth in claim 1. (emphasis added).

Because independent claims 26 and 55 recite features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 26 and 55 are patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, in the rejection of claim 26, the Examiner relies on teachings given in Some and contends that some claimed features are obvious. Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper.

Applicant submits that the remaining claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Further, with respect to the subject matter of claims 7-10 and 32, Applicant submits that the Examiner’s contention that col. 15, lines 38-43, discloses this feature is not supported since

this section does not disclose the selection of a reference image from which the generation of interimage-processed images is based.

With respect to claims 13-15 and 38, the Examiner contends that col. 15, lines 55-64, discloses the claimed subtraction between corresponding pixels between two original images. Applicant submits that the cited section merely discloses that the reduction of a display size of the image in the output stage of the video subsystems can be accomplished by pixel subtraction within the output image. There is no disclosure or suggestion of subtraction between corresponding pixels in two original images.

With respect to claims 23 and 48, the Examiner contends that the claimed medical radiation images are disclosed in col. 10, lines 8-10, of Branson. Applicant submits that this section merely relates to a remote control device that uses infrared radiation. There is no connection to medical radiation images.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 36 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branson in view of Ishihara *et al.* (US 5,241,473) ["Ishihara"]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 12, 16-21, 24, 25, 27, 29-31, 35-37 and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branson in view of Gupta *et al.* (US 6,292,683) ["Gupta"]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant teaverses the rejection.

Because Gupta does not cure the deficient teachings of Branson given above with respect to independent claims 1, 26 and 55, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In addition, Applicant submits that Gupta relates to tracking motion in magnetic resonance images (Abstract of Gupta), whereas Branson relates to endoscopic images (col. 1, lines 12-15, of Branson). There is no disclosure in Branson that tracking motion between endoscopic images is a problem. There is no disclosure in Gupta that its registration algorithm that uses the peak of the cross-correlation signal in the cross-correlation image may be applied to endoscopic images.

Without such disclosure in the respective references, Applicant submits that the Examiner's proffered reason for combining the references is not supported in the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness for this additional reason.

4. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Serial No. 09/748,384

Attorney Docket No.: Q61247

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

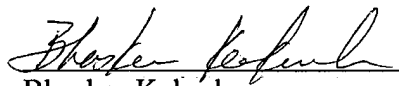
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Bhaskar Kakarla
Registration No. 54,627

Date: March 9, 2006